

DKT NO: X06-UWY-CV18046436-S : COMPLEX LITIGATION  
ERICA LAFFERTY : JUDICIAL DISTRICT WATERBURY  
V. : AT WATERBURY, CONNECTICUT  
ALEX EMRIC JONES : AUGUST 2, 2022

DKT NO: X06-UWY-CV186046437-S

WILLIAM SHERLACH  
V.  
ALEX EMRIC JONES

DKT NO: X06-UWY-CV186046438-S

WILLIAM SHERLACH  
V.  
ALEX EMRIC JONES

BEFORE THE HONORABLE BARBARA N. BELLIS, JUDGE

A P P E A R A N C E S :

Representing the Plaintiff (s):  
ATTORNEY CHRISTOPHER MATTEI  
ATTORNEY MATT BLUMENTHAL

Representing the Defendant (s):  
ATTORNEY NORMAN PATTIS

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Waterbury, CT 06702

1 THE COURT: We are on the record in the three  
2 related Lafftery versus Jones matters. Lead docket  
3 number Waterbury CV186046436. I'm going to ask counsel  
4 to please identify themselves for the record.

5 ATTY. MATTEI: Good morning, your Honor. Chris  
6 Mattei on behalf of the plaintiffs. With me is my  
7 colleague Matt Blumenthal.

8 THE COURT: Good morning.

9 ATTY. PATTIS: Norm Pattis on behalf of Mr. Jones,  
10 Free Speech Systems, Judge. Good morning.

11 THE COURT: Good morning.

12 ATTY. WILLIAMS: Good morning, your Honor. John  
13 Williams with a special appearance on behalf of  
14 Mr. Jones.

15 THE COURT: Good morning. So I think I may be  
16 able to avoid the first issue with respect to the  
17 objection for the media request. Mr. Ferraro, have you  
18 seen any members of the media here today?

19 THE CLERK: There's one but nobody who had  
20 requested to record.

21 THE COURT: Okay. So in light of the fact that no  
22 one is here, I can avoid that issue.

23 THE CLERK: Your Honor, I apologize. I do think  
24 the Connecticut Public Radio person is on his way. He  
25 called me and asked about the address but I don't see  
26 him yet.

27 THE COURT: All right. I'm not going to delay the

1 proceedings for that, so he will not be able to film  
2 today. Okay.

3 So this may be less than five minutes or we may be  
4 here all day depending on how this works. So my first  
5 question and this is really a yes or a no or an I don't  
6 know. That's what I want. I don't want long  
7 explanations. I'm not looking for argument, just a yes  
8 or a no or I don't know. I'll start with Attorney  
9 Mattei and then I will ask Attorney Pattis.

10 So my question is, whether the bankruptcy court  
11 granted a motion to extend the bankruptcy stay to Alex  
12 Jones who has not filed for bankruptcy? So Attorney  
13 Mattei, yes, no or I don't know?

14 ATTY. MATTEI: No, your Honor.

15 THE COURT: Okay. Attorney Pattis, do you agree  
16 or disagree with that, sir?

17 ATTY. PATTIS: Neither. I don't know is my  
18 answer.

19 THE COURT: Okay. I'm happy to pass the matter  
20 since your client would know, I assume, since you're  
21 representing your client. Would you like me to pass it  
22 for a few minutes and we can make a call?

23 ATTY. PATTIS: He's testifying today. I tried to  
24 reach him yesterday, a per your order and was  
25 unsuccessful. I don't know if I can reach his trial  
26 counsel but I'll try.

27 THE COURT: I know that you had mentioned, I think

1           you had reached out to Mr. Stuckel actually since  
2           Mr. Ferraro was getting back from his Italy trip, with  
3           respect to having bankruptcy counsel use the link to  
4           watch it on Microsoft Teams so, I assume, they're  
5           available.

6           ATTY. PATTIS: I assume so too.

7           THE COURT: So maybe they would be the ones that  
8           you could try to reach. And I just simply want to know  
9           whether the bankruptcy court granted a motion to extend  
10          the bankruptcy stay to Alex Jones who, to my knowledge,  
11          has not filed bankruptcy.

12          ATTY. PATTIS: I will find out, Judge.

13          THE COURT: Okay. So we'll take a five-minute  
14          recess. Thank you.

15          (Whereupon, there was a recess.)

16          THE COURT: You could be seated. That was quick,  
17          Attorney Pattis.

18          ATTY. PATTIS: It still took two phone calls.

19          THE COURT: And the answer?

20          ATTY. PATTIS: No such motion was filed,  
21          therefore, no such motion is granted.

22          THE COURT: Thank you.

23          So the automatic stay that is in effect as to Free  
24          Speech System, LLC who filed for bankruptcy, I believe,  
25          on Friday, does not automatically extend to solvent  
26          codefendants even where they are similarly legal or  
27          factually, so and I don't see that any motion for stay

1 has been filed here.

2 I'm going to next turn to the, I have to say  
3 untimely cross claim. I will give Attorney Williams an  
4 opportunity to be heard but I do want to start out by  
5 saying that it is, everyone has their responsibilities  
6 and obligations in this case. And one of my  
7 responsibilities is to maintain the orderly procedure  
8 of the court docket and cases and to prevent any  
9 interference with the fair administration of justice.

10 And my concern here, Mr. Williams, and I'll give  
11 you as much time as you need to respond, is that the  
12 cross claim is untimely, improper, and that it delays  
13 the trial. And so I am considering using my statutory  
14 authority and inherent authority in sua sponte  
15 dismissing or striking the claim at this time. So I'm  
16 happy to have you be heard.

17 I do want to mention one thing before I forget is  
18 that your appearance, you're going to need to correct  
19 your appearance because your appearance, you didn't use  
20 the right form. There's a specific form that has to be  
21 used for limited appearance and that form has different  
22 language on it then the standard appearance form that  
23 we're all used to. So, for example, in the limited  
24 appearance form you only agree to accept service on  
25 your particular issue. So I do want to tell you that  
26 right now you are in for Mr. Jones full force and that  
27 you'll need to correct that probably by way of a motion

1 or whatever you think is appropriate.

2 But in any event, let me hear you with respect to  
3 your cross claim.

4 ATTY. WILLIAMS: Your Honor, your Honor has raised  
5 as I understand it and I apologize my hearing leaves a  
6 lot to be desired but as I understand it, your Honor  
7 has raised the question of untimeliness and  
8 specifically as I look at the docket, there's no notice  
9 of closed pleadings. The case is proceeding as I  
10 understand it as a hearing in damages. It seems to me  
11 that the cross claim is completely collateral to that.  
12 There should not in any way have an impact on this  
13 trial and in deed is the sort of thing that might well  
14 be deferred until the end of the trial.

15 So if I have done something, your Honor used the  
16 word improper, if I did something that was improper, I  
17 can only tell your Honor it was certainly not my  
18 intention and I apologize to the court for any offense  
19 that I have given to you or inconvenience to anybody  
20 else. It was in no way my intention.

21 THE COURT: No offense taken but we just need to  
22 follow the rules, that's all. So I raise the issue of  
23 the untimeliness being improper and form and the delay  
24 that it would work on the trial. Is there anything  
25 else that you wanted to add?

26 ATTY. WILLIAMS: Well, your Honor, I didn't  
27 believe that it was untimely. But obviously the Free

1 Speech Systems I would have expected would oppose that  
2 if they felt that it was untimely. Your Honor, as  
3 again said it's improper, I don't understand in what  
4 way it would be improper except that I didn't request  
5 your permission, which I didn't understand was required  
6 and I didn't believe it would have any impact on the  
7 case.

8 I have read the motion to strike. Counsel there  
9 indicates that --

10 THE COURT: You're ahead of me Mr. Williams  
11 because I haven't read it but --

12 ATTY. WILLIAMS: I didn't hear you, your Honor.

13 THE COURT: I said you're ahead of me because I  
14 didn't read the motion to strike because it would now  
15 require us to engage in pleading practice, request  
16 to -- motion to strike, answer, special defenses,  
17 motions for summary judgment and obviously we're down  
18 for jury selection today.

19 ATTY. WILLIAMS: Well, your Honor, all I can say  
20 is that I did not intend any -- to do anything  
21 improper. I thought I was proceeding appropriately.  
22 If I wasn't, I can only say that I am humbly apologetic  
23 to the court.

24 THE COURT: So I don't -- when I say untimely, and  
25 please be seated if you like or remain standing  
26 wherever you're most comfortable. But when I say  
27 untimely, it was filed well beyond the close of

1 pleadings deadline and the operative scheduling order.  
2 I can't even find the last scheduling order, it's so  
3 old. And the deadline for the close of pleadings has  
4 long passed. It was not listed in the joint trial  
5 management report which was ordered to be filed. It  
6 wasn't filed when the Jones defendants filed their  
7 denials with their notice of defenses and their special  
8 defenses and it's obviously filed on the eve of trial.

9 And when I say improper, I don't mean that you,  
10 sir, did anything, you know, improperly to offend the  
11 court by any means, so please don't think that. But  
12 what you would need to do with such a pleading is file  
13 either a request to file the pleading, you know, beyond  
14 the deadlines, file a motion with it, file a motion to  
15 amend pleadings, something because otherwise, nothing  
16 would prevent you from in the middle of evidence, you  
17 or anyone else just dropping a pleading in the file and  
18 expecting the parties and the court to adjudicate it.  
19 So, we can't just have generally what we say with an  
20 answer is an answer in cross claim or an answer in  
21 counterclaim, certainly there was no answer here given  
22 the default but there was the denial and the notice as  
23 the defenses and the special defenses and I would have  
24 expected it bare minimum to have it filed then.

25 And, you know, with respect to the delay, it would  
26 delay the trial as it was filed five days before jury  
27 selection. So I have to say that Mr. Jones is not in



1 compliance with his obligations to plead in accordance  
2 with our rules of practice and the scheduling order.

3 So pursuant to Connecticut General Statute 52-97  
4 and Connecticut Practice Book Section 10-21, the cause  
5 of action set forth in the untimely cross claim cannot  
6 conveniently be heard with the main complaint. And the  
7 issues raised on the cross claim, even had the cross  
8 claim been timely and properly filed, do not arise out  
9 of the transaction which is the subject of the  
10 plaintiff's complaint, which is required by Practice  
11 Book 10-10.

12 For example, one of the basis for relief is an  
13 injunction requiring someone from Free Speech Systems  
14 to attend the trial. So in short, it would be  
15 impossible to hear and adjudicate the cross claim given  
16 that jury selection starts today as it cannot  
17 conveniently be heard with the main complaint.

18 So for these reasons, the court directs that the  
19 cross claim be deleted or dismissed from this case and,  
20 of course, nothing prevents Mr. Jones from filing a  
21 separate action and if that does occur in the normal  
22 course of business, the parties will be at notice that  
23 the court will exercise jurisdiction over that matter  
24 and bring it to this docket. That is the most  
25 efficient way to proceed. But it will not be part of  
26 this present case.

27 ATTY. WILLIAMS: Thank you, your Honor.

1 THE COURT: You're welcome.

2 So I have a couple of housekeeping matters. I was  
3 happy to see that you could agree on the number of  
4 alternates which I understand was four and that you had  
5 a total of five challenges, but I wasn't sure how you  
6 were breaking it down. Are you doing four and one or  
7 three and two?

8 ATTY. MATTEI: We agree that they be unrestricted,  
9 your Honor.

10 THE COURT: I will not, that I will not agree too.  
11 I stick with the statute. I like that statute.

12 ATTY. MATTEI: My proposal then, Judge and I --

13 THE COURT: Why don't you discuss it off the  
14 record and then let me know if you have an agreement on  
15 it. Okay. Thank you.

16 Mr. Pattis, there was one and I didn't pull it up,  
17 but there was going to be one late motion in limine.  
18 You had an attorney in your office who was not  
19 available to file it due to some health issues. And  
20 I'm not sure if that was a motion in limine on behalf  
21 of Mr. Jones and Free Speech Systems or just Free  
22 Speech Systems because if it is on behalf of Mr. Jones,  
23 it's well past filing, so what would you suggest?

24 ATTY. PATTIS: It was both, but we're not going to  
25 file it now.

26 THE COURT: Okay.

27 ATTY. PATTIS: He did not get out of the hospital

1 yet.

2 THE COURT: Sorry to hear that.

3 ATTY. PATTIS: Yeah, as are we.

4 Given the law of the case and the way things seem  
5 to be evolving given the motion practice we can address  
6 that interest in the other motions that are to be  
7 argued later.

8 THE COURT: Very good.

9 ATTY. PATTIS: So there will not be another --

10 THE COURT: And then I looked last night and I  
11 thought yesterday was the deadlines for the replies to  
12 the objections to the motions in limine, I saw the  
13 plaintiffs' replies, are you not filing replies or are  
14 you planning on filing them today because they were due  
15 yesterday?

16 And again, I don't know if they're just are  
17 directed to Free Speech Systems and of course we're not  
18 adjudicating that now.

19 ATTY. PATTIS: I have been advised by bankruptcy  
20 counsel that the stay binds my hands as to Free Speech  
21 Systems, and that I cannot act on his behalf it would  
22 act as his peril. They would pertain to both, so I  
23 took the position that the stay was applicable as to  
24 that. I understand -- I'm here as to your order and I  
25 don't mean to be defiant, but I've been told I act at  
26 my peril if I act as to Free Speech Systems.

27 THE COURT: So you don't want to act on behalf of

1 Mr. Jones in filing replies since you do represent  
2 Mr. Jones and Mr. Jones is a nondebtor and there's no  
3 stay at this point? Listen, I'm not saying that at any  
4 point the bankruptcy counsel can't file a motion in  
5 bankruptcy court and have the stay extended to  
6 Mr. Jones but right now, you're telling me that's why I  
7 asked, that's why I started --

8 ATTY. PATTIS: No, I understand.

9 THE COURT: -- but there is no stay that extends  
10 to Mr. Jones.

11 ATTY. PATTIS: But there is as to a party that I  
12 represent so I feel like I have a conflict at this  
13 point, because I'm told I can't act with respect to one  
14 and should act with respect to others and now I'm in a  
15 position where I've got to parse what to do with  
16 respect to each and that strikes me as that sort of  
17 1.73 issue that I would need a little bit more time,  
18 not an infinite amount of time to address.

19 And, you know, the issue you raised about whether  
20 they should file the stay to extend to Mr. Jones that  
21 hadn't occurred to me, I'm not a bankruptcy -- I had  
22 altercate hands.

23 THE COURT: Well, I think the law is clear that  
24 when one defendant in a case files for bankruptcy it  
25 doesn't automatically extend to all other defendants  
26 even if they are similarly factually or legally and you  
27 would have to move in bankruptcy court to extend the

1 stay.

2 Now last time we had this issue when Info Wars and  
3 Prison Planet maybe, when they filed for bankruptcy, we  
4 had the exact same situation and I believe I entered a  
5 very similar order in response to that and then I think  
6 what happened and you correct me if I'm wrong, I think  
7 that you removed the remaining case to bankruptcy  
8 court. So that it wasn't so much --

9 ATTY. PATTIS: I understand that.

10 THE COURT: So here I didn't see and I checked  
11 before I came out on the record, I didn't see any  
12 removal to bankruptcy court of the pending claims and I  
13 didn't see anything about a stay.

14 ATTY. PATTIS: I was instructed not to file  
15 removal papers by bankruptcy counsel for reasons of  
16 their own that I didn't inquire as to. And so I am  
17 left in this awkward position now where if we proceed  
18 as to Jones but not as to Free Speech that operates  
19 almost constructively as a severance and I believe the  
20 law is clear that a severance that adversely affects a  
21 debtor is prohibited once the debtor is in bankruptcy.

22 So it's my request that and it's my understanding  
23 that, I don't know if it's Houston, I don't recall what  
24 city in Texas, in the Texas bankruptcy court there's a  
25 hearing Friday morning with respect to the plaintiff's  
26 emergency motion for relief from stay.

27 THE COURT: But that emergency motion is a relief

1 from stay as to the debtor, Free Speech Systems --

2 ATTY. PATTIS: Right.

3 THE COURT: -- we are all on the same page here.  
4 Everyone is on the same page. They're under federal  
5 bankruptcy law which, I believe me, respect. There is  
6 an automatic stay as to the debtor, Free Speech  
7 Systems, LLC. If you told me this is why I started  
8 asking this question, if you said to me, yes -- because  
9 I tried to look last night and I could not access the  
10 through Pacer the records or I would have cancelled  
11 this if I saw that it was extended. As I'm  
12 understanding it, clearly there's no doubt that there  
13 was no extension of that stay to the solvent remaining  
14 defendant Mr. Jones, nor has such a motion been filed,  
15 so there is an active claim right now against Alex  
16 Jones. There's causes of action and we're down for  
17 jury selection.

18 So, I can't, you know, I can't solve for you what  
19 instructions you're getting from your client or  
20 bankruptcy counsel but I have a remaining claim, but I  
21 understand from what you're telling me it's your  
22 position, well you can tell me your position why don't  
23 you.

24 ATTY. PATTIS: I'm asking for a recess until a  
25 motion is heard on Friday. I find myself in a position  
26 where I cannot satisfy my obligations to both clients.  
27 Mr. Jones expects a defense as does Free Speech.

1 I am told Free Speech the action will not proceed  
2 as to they may or may not have identical interest in  
3 every instance but I don't see how I can proceed as to  
4 one client and not the other.

5 THE COURT: So and then let's just hypothetically  
6 say that we either didn't pick until Friday and Friday  
7 the motion is heard and the motion it's a motion to --

8 ATTY. PATTIS: For relief from stay.

9 THE COURT: Okay, let's say that --

10 ATTY. PATTIS: That's my understanding of it. I  
11 haven't filed it.

12 THE COURT: So let's say that's denied and so the  
13 stay is in effect as to Free Speech System.

14 ATTY. PATTIS: At this point, Judge, I would be in  
15 touch with bankruptcy counsel saying you left me  
16 hanging here without a motion for an application as to  
17 Jones or a removal, the trial court takes the position  
18 that its capable -- that as a matter of law it would be  
19 appropriate to proceed with Mr. Jones and I might have  
20 to seek independent ethic's counsel advice because I'm  
21 starting to feel a 1.73 (inaudible) because I'm now in  
22 a position where I can meet the needs of one client but  
23 not the other in a proceeding and I've not been in this  
24 position before.

25 THE COURT: Attorney Mattei.

26 ATTY. MATTEI: Your Honor, what I see Attorney  
27 Pattis be doing is asking for making an oral motion for

1           continuance for jury selection. We oppose that motion  
2           for continuance. Mr. Jones is more than adequate  
3           represented in bankruptcy court in Houston. They are  
4           well aware of this jury selection. They actually filed  
5           a motion to lift the stay as to the ongoing trial in  
6           Texas. And so they're well aware of the implications  
7           that --

8           THE COURT: So that -- excuse me. The motion to  
9           lift the stay was as to the debtor?

10          ATTY. MATTEI: As to the debtor Free Speech  
11          Systems. And so they're more than aware of occasions  
12          of not moving the stay with respect to Mr. Jones,  
13          they've not done that knowing that jury selection is  
14          scheduled for today.

15          The bankruptcy, which was filed on Friday,  
16          Mr. Pattis has had the weekend and now Monday to  
17          investigate the extent to which any conflict prevents  
18          him from proceeding today on behalf of Mr. Jones. But  
19          the facts of the case establishes that there is no  
20          conflict and there can be no conflict because Mr. Jones  
21          and Free Speech Systems are all egos to one another.  
22          They have been represented by the same counsel  
23          throughout. There's no suggestion or evidence that any  
24          position taken by Mr. Jones here would be adverse to a  
25          company that he 100 percent controls, Free Speech  
26          Systems.

27          And so there's just no basis to grant a



1           continuance here where Mr. Jones is the one that has  
2           manufactured this situation on the eve of jury  
3           selection to prevent us from going forward. So we want  
4           to proceed today with jury selection.

5           THE COURT: So here's what I would say, we are  
6           going to proceed but if and when a motion is granted in  
7           the bankruptcy court, that extends the stay to  
8           Mr. Jones, the court needs to be notified immediately  
9           and we will cease activity because that would then stay  
10          the claim against Mr. Jones as well. But short of  
11          that, listen I suppose Mr. Jones could file for  
12          bankruptcy and that would stay the rest of the case  
13          under federal law or the bankruptcy court can extend  
14          the stay to Mr. Jones.

15          So if either one of those happens, I'm sure you'll  
16          let me know immediately and we will stop our  
17          proceedings.

18          All right. So we're going to start jury selection  
19          at 10:00. Just as a reminder please no snapshots or  
20          screen shots or whatever you want to call it of the  
21          jury confidential jury questionnaires. Anyone who --  
22          so if your clients are here at any point either during  
23          jury selection or trial the trial will be in the  
24          courtroom next door.

25          But during jury selection and during trial anyone  
26          who's seated at counsel table or in the well of the  
27          courtroom would have to wait for a recess to leave or

1           you can leave in between jurors if you understand what  
2           I'm saying. I don't want people in the well of the  
3           courtroom getting up and leaving in the middle of the  
4           voir dire, if they're in the well of the courtroom.  
5           Now people in the gallery they can come and go as they  
6           please but for trial as well, if we're not in a recess  
7           any of your clients or other lawyers that are in the  
8           well of the courtroom would have to wait for recess. I  
9           don't want people coming and going. But if there's any  
10          believe me any need for a quick break because someone  
11          needs to leave or you have an emergency or whatever,  
12          I'm happy to take another recess, so you just let me  
13          know and ask for a recess and I'm sure we'll take a  
14          recess. I just don't want any commotion.

15                 During the -- I am going to remain on the bench at  
16          least for the immediate future. I don't have any other  
17          conflicts right now. I don't know if that's going to  
18          remain the whole time but the juror, potential juror  
19          will sit next to me up here. I don't know if you want,  
20          I guess, Mr. Ferraro, maybe we can move the lectern up  
21          for the lawyers.

22                 THE CLERK: Wherever counsel wants to.

23                 THE COURT: Why don't you discuss where you want  
24          it but I'm telling you now I want you to give the  
25          jurors space. I don't want you leaving that lectern  
26          area and clouding the jurors and I'm going to say the  
27          same thing for witnesses as well. So I don't want

1 anybody invading their space.

2 So here's what I would say on the replies to the  
3 motions in limine by Mr. Jones. If Mr. Jones wishes,  
4 he's not ordered to, he doesn't have to but if he  
5 wishes to file replies to the motions in limine, and  
6 that was due yesterday, Mr. Jones will have until the  
7 end of business tomorrow to file his replies if he  
8 wants to.

9 I'm prepared to go on the introduction to the  
10 panel. I have, thank you, I have all the information  
11 that you gave us with respect to the parties and the  
12 witnesses and so forth. So I think for the  
13 introduction to the panel, you're going to be very  
14 brief. You're just going to simply say who you are and  
15 what other lawyers are with you and if you want to  
16 mention if you have clients here or not, that's fine.  
17 But I don't want to hear anything beyond that, no  
18 description of the case. It's going to be very very  
19 brief otherwise I am going to cut you off. That's not  
20 the opportunity to start any further details.

21 All right. So we will be back right at 10:00 p.m.  
22 for jury selection.

23 ATTY. MATTEI: Your Honor, I'm sorry. One  
24 housekeeping matter. I sent to Mr. Stuckel this  
25 morning a proposed revised description of the case for  
26 the court to consider giving to the jury in light of  
27 the fact we now only have one defendant for whom we are

1           picking. The initial jointly agreed upon statement  
2           referred to both defendants and I sent the revision to  
3           Mr. Stuckel. Attorney Pattis I spoke to him  
4           beforehand, he indicated that he objects so I just want  
5           to flag the court given that right now we are only  
6           picking with respect to Mr. Jones.

7           THE COURT: Well, I planned on deleting Free  
8           Speech Systems in the language as a defendant. I  
9           understand that you're objecting basically, Attorney  
10          Pattis, even going forward into the proceeding and such  
11          but do you have any suggestions on the proposed  
12          language or not?

13          ATTY. PATTIS: Yes. I don't believe the court can  
14          refer to Free Speech Systems. I don't think the court  
15          can refer to Mr. Jones as acting through Free Speech  
16          Systems without adversely affecting Free Speech Systems  
17          in violation of the stay, so that's the basis of my  
18          disagreement.

19          If the court's going to proceed as to Mr. Jones I  
20          think it should delete reference to Free Speech Systems  
21          from the proposed joint statement.

22          ATTY. MATTEI: I just in response regardless of  
23          Free Speech Systems status that fact is established as  
24          a result of fault not, so there's not any question that  
25          that is true to be evidence in the case regardless of  
26          whether Free Speech --

27          ATTY. PATTIS: That will be a litigated issue

1           whether he'll be evidence, we think any evidence to  
2           that effect would be in violation of the stay because  
3           it acts to the detriment of Free Speech Systems while  
4           it's --

5           THE COURT: I think we can be very clear in our  
6           preliminary instructions and our jury instructions that  
7           this case is proceeding only as to Mr. Jones  
8           individually so I'm not concerned that they're going to  
9           be confused. So if you can't come up with your own  
10          language I'm more than capable of coming up with my own  
11          language. Okay.

12          ATTY. WILLIAMS: Your Honor, may I be excused?

13          THE COURT: Well, Mr. Williams, sure but you're  
14          going to have to file --

15          ATTY. WILLIAMS: A motion to withdraw.

16          THE COURT: Unless you can somehow assure me as an  
17          officer of the court that Mr. Jones retained you solely  
18          for the purposes of the cross claim and not for any  
19          other reason. Because I explained to you the issue.

20          ATTY. WILLIAMS: I understand.

21          THE COURT: And I don't want to be hasty and make  
22          mistakes and informally let you out of the case if in  
23          fact that's not true.

24          ATTY. WILLIAMS: Your Honor, I assure you as an  
25          officer of the court that that was the sole purpose  
26          that he retained me and I have no other interest in  
27          this case whatsoever.

1 THE COURT: All right. Do you agree with that,  
2 Attorney Pattis?

3 ATTY. PATTIS: I reviewed the papers and I agree.

4 THE COURT: I'm sorry.

5 ATTY. PATTIS: I've reviewed the engagement  
6 letter, I agree that there's no ambiguity with respect  
7 to that.

8 THE COURT: So your client, Mr. Jones, is not  
9 going to object if I informally let Mr. Williams out.

10 ATTY. PATTIS: On behalf of Mr. Jones, I'll make  
11 that representation.

12 THE COURT: And Attorney Mattei, you don't want to  
13 be heard on this, correct?

14 ATTY. MATTEI: No, your Honor.

15 THE COURT: All right. So ordered.

16 ATTY. WILLIAMS: Thank you, your Honor.

17 THE COURT: We'll take a recess.

18 (Whereupon, there was a recess.)

19 \* \* \* \* \*

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1 DKT NO: X06-UWY-CV18046436-S : COMPLEX LITIGATION  
2 ERICA LAFFERTY : JUDICIAL DISTRICT WATERBURY  
3 v. : AT WATERBURY, CONNECTICUT  
4 ALEX EMRIC JONES : AUGUST 2, 2022

5 DKT NO: X06-UWY-CV186046437-S

6 WILLIAM SHERLACH  
7 V.  
8 ALEX EMRIC JONES

9 DKT NO: X06-UWY-CV186046438-S

10 WILLIAM SHERLACH  
11 V.  
12 ALEX EMRIC JONES

13 E L E C T R O N I C  
14 C E R T I F I C A T I O N

15 I hereby certify the electronic version is a true and  
16 correct transcription of the audio recording of the  
17 above-referenced case, heard in Superior Court, G.A. 4 of  
18 Waterbury, Connecticut before the Honorable Barbara N. Bellis,  
19 Judge, on August 2, 2022.

20 Dated this 2nd day of August, 2022 in Waterbury,  
21 Connecticut.

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23  
24  
25 \_\_\_\_\_  
26 Debbie A. Ellis  
27 Court Recording Monitor